

JAN 22 2016

BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF IOWA

In the matter of:)	BOEE Case No. 15-96
)	(Folder No. 315952)
Amy J. DeGroot-Hammer,)	
)	COMBINED STATEMENT OF
Respondent.)	CHARGES, SETTLEMENT
)	AGREEMENT, AND FINAL ORDER

In accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code sections 17A.12(5) and 272.2(4) and 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.4(6), and with full knowledge of the right to demand a formal hearing before the Board upon the pending complaint prior to the imposition of sanction upon her license, the Respondent expressly waives the right to a disciplinary hearing and notifies the Board of her desire to resolve the pending complaint through means of informal disposition.

The Respondent concedes the jurisdiction of the Board for all issues relevant hereto and voluntarily consents to the State's counsel presenting this agreement to the Board with the terms provided. If the Board does not accept the terms of this agreement, the disciplinary hearing will be rescheduled and the stipulations contained herein are not binding upon the Respondent and will not be presented against her at the time of hearing without further agreement of the Respondent.

Board approval of this settlement shall constitute resolution of this matter and will be entered as a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

NOTICE OF HEARING

A hearing in this matter will not be held, as the State and Respondent have entered into the following consent agreement in lieu of scheduling a contested case hearing. If the Board does not accept this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order, the matter may be set for hearing in accordance with 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.7.

STIPULATIONS

1. Respondent holds a PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR LICENSE (FOLDER # 315952), with the following endorsements: Evaluator (New); and PK-8 Principal. Respondent's professional administrator license is current and will next expire on June 30, 2016. Respondent also holds a MASTER EDUCATOR LICENSE, with the following endorsements: K-6 Teacher Elementary Classroom; Professional School Counselor K-8; Professional School Counselor 5-12; and K-12 Athletic Coach. Respondent's master educator license is current and will next expire on June 30, 2016. Respondent also holds a CONDITIONAL LICENSE, with the following endorsements: K-6 Teacher Elementary Classroom; Professional School Counselor K-8; and Professional School Counselor 5-

12. Respondent also holds a BEHIND THE WHEEL DRIVING INSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION, which is current and will next expire on or about June 15, 2016. Respondent also holds an expired Class B License, an expired Substitute Authorization, and an expired Coaching Authorization.

2. The Lawton-Bronson Community School District initially hired Respondent on May 13, 2013 to coach the drill team.

3. On June 3, 2015, the Board of Educational Examiners received a complaint against Respondent alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics.

4. On August 7, 2015, the Board found probable cause to proceed to hearing based upon the facts set forth in paragraph 5 below.

5. Investigation revealed the school district conducted an audit, which was ultimately reviewed by the State Auditor's Office. The audit revealed problems in handling funds by Respondent, including that Respondent placed orders for items without prior district approval, pay for the items with her personal credit card, and then seek reimbursement from the district.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Count I

6. The Board voted to charge Respondent with a violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(4)(b), which prohibits converting public property or funds to the personal use of the practitioner.

Count II

7. Respondent stipulates to being charged with a violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(4)(d), which prohibits combining public and school-related funds with personal funds.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

8. This Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order constitutes the final resolution of a contested case proceeding and shall have the force and effect of a disciplinary order entered following a contested case hearing.

9. In order to resolve this matter without proceeding to hearing, Respondent agrees to the following conditions:

- a. Respondent accepts a WRITTEN REPRIMAND.
- b. Respondent agrees to successfully complete at least fifteen in-person contact hours in "Ethics for Educators." This course is offered by the ISEA.

Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with the completion of the educational course. Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of completion of the Ethics for Educators course within one (1) year of the Board's acceptance of this Combined Settlement Agreement and Final Order.

10. In consideration, the State agrees to dismiss Count I of the Statement of Charges.

LICENSEE DECLARATION

I understand that this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is subject to the approval of the Board and will have no force or effect if it is not accepted by the Board.

I understand State's counsel will present this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order to the Board *ex parte*.

I agree to comply with the requirements set forth in the Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order, and understand that my failure to do so can result in additional discipline of my teaching and administrative licenses.

I understand that this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is a public record, which will become part of my permanent licensure file and will be available for public inspection and reproduction.

I understand that my name will be added to the national clearinghouse database kept by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC).

1/15/16
Date _____

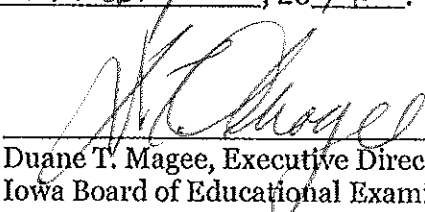

Amy J. DeGroot-Hammer, Respondent

ORDER

IT IS THE FINAL ORDER OF THE IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS THAT:

1. The conduct with which Respondent has been charged in Count II constitutes a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics governing the teaching profession. Respondent is REPRIMANDED for the charged conduct.
2. Respondent shall successfully complete at least fifteen in-person contact hours in "Ethics for Educators." Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with the completion of the educational course. Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of completion of the Ethics for Educators course within one (1) year of the date of this Order.
3. As agreed to by the State, Count I is hereby dismissed.
4. In determining the appropriate sanction to impose in this case, the Board has considered the nature and seriousness of the allegations as well as mitigating circumstances.

Dated this 12TH day of February, 2016.


Duane T. Magee, Executive Director
Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

Copies to:

Amy J. DeGroot-Hammer
RESPONDENT

Jack A. Faith
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

Renner K. Walker
ATTORNEY FOR STATE